

16th Annual Workshop

A
Report
to the
Council of Western State Foresters



Workshop 2002

Western State Fire Managers
Albuquerque, New Mexico
April 7 - 11, 2002



April 15, 2002

TO: Council of Western State Foresters

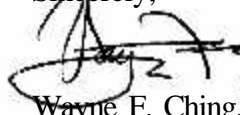

FROM: Western State Fire Managers

Aloha! The fire managers once again had a successful workshop. Attached are a list of issues, emerging issues, informational items, various resolutions, and the minutes of our meetings. There were four issue papers this year, requesting that action be taken by the Council.

Sixteen of the fire managers were able to attend this year's meeting held at the Wyndham Garden Hotel, Albuquerque, New Mexico. There were representatives from the USDA Forest Service, USDI, Bureau of Land Management, the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition and the Western Governors' Association.

We feel that our work meets with your expectations. We feel we had another very productive workshop. Thank you for your continued support of the Western State Fire Managers.

Sincerely,

Wayne F. Ching, Chair
Western State Fire Managers

attachments

Federal Billing Timelines

Background: Non-federal cooperators are having a continuing problem of receiving timely and accurate fire billings from the USFS. The problem appears to be in the process used to collect information to consolidate and submit the bill. Each state and the federal land management agencies enter into an Interagency Cooperative Fire Management Agreement that authorizes the exchange of resources and funds for fire management activities. The Interagency partners have benefited immensely from authorities provided in the agreement. All partners have financial obligations, within their respective Appropriated Fund Limitations, as spelled out in each of the agreements. Each agreement specifies time frames for submitting bills or estimates, usually 60 days after a fire is declared controlled. If estimates or partial bills are submitted, the final bill is usually due within 6 months after control of the fire. “Billing deadlines are intended merely to encourage prompt billing, and failure to meet billing deadlines shall not be construed as a release or waiver if claims for reimbursement against the other party.”

Concern: The non-federal cooperators want to fulfill their financial obligations but are often not able to do so if the fire bills from the federal agencies are not received in an accurate and timely manner. Non-federal cooperator issues are: fiscal year deadlines; legal obligations for recovering costs from causal agents; FEMA deadlines for grant assistance requests, and supplemental budget requests to State legislatures. In particular the new FEMA grant period deadline of 15 months emphasizes the need for timely billing.

Alternatives:

(1) Do nothing, maintain the status quo. **Pro:** No changes need to be made in current operating procedures. **Con:** The states may not be able to meet their financial obligations and FEMA requirements for grant assistance.

(2) Council of Western State Foresters elevate the issue to the NASF Fire Committee to seek assistance from the USFS Washington office to find a solution. **Pro:** The states will be able to meet financial obligations and FEMA deadlines. **Con:** It will require a significant effort from all agencies to arrive at a process that will work for all partners, federal and non-federal.

Recommended Action: Select Alternative #2.

Contact Persons: Ray Weidenhaft, WY; Steve Hasenohrl, SD

Resolution (Draft)

Federal Billing Timelines

Resolution No.: _____

Whereas: Non-federal cooperators want to fulfill their financial obligations for federal fire suppression assistance;

Whereas: Non-federal cooperators are faced with fiscal year deadlines, legislative constraints, and legal obligations for recovering costs from causal agents,

Whereas: New FEMA deadlines for grant assistance, limit the grant life to 15 months with possible extension of 3 months;

Whereas: The USFS process to submit timely and accurate fire billings to non-federal cooperators is not effective;

Whereas; Inter-Agency Cooperative Fire Management Agreements clearly define desired fire billing time frames;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that: The Council of Western State Foresters and the National Association of State Foresters request that the Chief of the USDA Forest Service provide appropriate direction to develop a timely and accurate fire billing process to non-federal cooperators.

Fire Retardants

Background: The USDA Forest Service (FS) plans to contract for and utilize only gum-thickened retardants beginning in the year 2004. The Director of Fire and Aviation Management, by letter dated June 1, 2000, notified Regional Foresters, Assistant Directors, WO-FAM, the National Retardant Contracting Officer and the National Retardant and Equipment Program Leader that “The USDA Forest Service will only accept bids for gum-thickened products in the year 2004 contracts”.

The FS decision in the letter dated June 1, 2001, dictates that federal, state, and local agencies that purchase retardant off the National Long-Term Retardant Contract must use the gum-thickened retardant. They lose the ability to have a choice between liquid concentrate (unthickened) and gum-thickened retardant.

At present, there are approximately 105 large airtanker and single engine airtanker bases in the nation. Of these 105 bases, 65 bases (62%) use unthickened (liquid concentrate) and 39 bases (37%) use gum-thickened retardant: one SEAT Base uses only Class A foam: 20 of the 40 gum-thickened bases are in California. If the retardant was purchased off the National Long-Term Retardant Contract, the USFS directive would require a change in fire retardant mixing and storage capabilities at approximately 62% of the retardant bases nationwide. This would be a major cost to the agencies involved.



At the December 2000 National Retardant Meeting in Reno, Nevada, 117 airtanker pilots, lead plane pilots, Regional and Forest Aviation Officers, and other air attack personnel signed a letter to the FS, Director of Fire and Aviation Management, requesting that the decision to exclusively use gum-thickened retardants, be reconsidered. Their letter also stated “Our years of experience in the field have proven that the liquid concentrate is a far superior product and

should not be eliminated from the field. Liquid concentrate is the preferred product of choice due to the fact that it is generally more effective in stopping the advancement of fires than the gum-thickened products.”

Burning tests required for approval of long-term retardants at the FS Fire Laboratory at Missoula, Montana, document that liquid concentrate is at least 10% more effective than approved gum-thickened retardants.

Liquid concentrate fire retardant has been used successfully in the United States of over 25 years. The product is also used successfully in Canada, France, Chile and several other countries around the world. About 70% of all retardant dropped worldwide is the liquid concentrate. All liquid concentrate retardants are tested and approved by the USFS. They meet or exceed all established health and safety standards. There has never been a human health and safety problem with any liquid concentrate retardants. All fire retardants on the market contain ammonia and as such can be hazardous to aquatic life.

Alternatives:

(1) Where long-term fire retardant is purchased off of the National Long-Term Retardant Contract, use only gum-thickened retardants with the resulting costs of converting 62% of the existing large and single engine airtanker bases from liquid concentrate (unthickened) to gum-thickened retardant.

(2) States and other federal agencies desiring to have a choice between unthickened (liquid concentrate) and gum-thickened retardants issue their own retardant contract.

(3) Request the USFS to rescind its directive shown in the letter of June 1, 2000, and to continue to contract for both unthickened (liquid concentrate) and gum-thickened retardants.

Recommendation: Alternative 3

Contact: Tim Murphy, MT; Joe Stam, AK; Bob Ashworth, NV

Resolution (Draft)

Fire Retardants

Resolution No. _____

Need for federal, state, and local fire agencies to have an alternative between unthickened (liquid concentrate) and gum thickened fire retardants.

Whereas: The USDA Forest Service letter of June 1, 2000 dictates the use of only gum-thickened retardant beginning 2004.

Whereas: The vast majority of lead plane pilots, air tanker pilots and other air attack personnel testify that unthickened (liquid concentrate) is the preferred product of choice due to the fact that it is generally more effective in stopping the advancement of a fire than gum-thickened products.

Whereas: Liquid concentrate (unthickened) retardant has been used very successfully for over 25 years without any problems.

Whereas: Conversion of existing unthickened (liquid concentrate) bases to gum- thickened retardant would be very costly.

Whereas: The USDA Forest Service dictate of June 1, 2000 deprives the western states and other federal agencies of any choice regarding the type of retardant they use if they purchase retardant off the National Long-Term Retardant Contract.

Now, therefore be it resolved that: The Council of Western State Foresters urges the USDA Forest Service to continue to contract for both unthickened (liquid concentrate) and gum-thickened retardants in the 2004 fire retardant contract.

Distribution of National Fire Plan – State Fire Assistance Funding

Background: In 1998 the Council of Western State Foresters accepted a recommendation from the Western State Fire Managers that any federal funding appropriated above the normal State Fire Assistance allocation be distributed with 25% through conventional formula funding and 75% through competitive grants focusing on the Wildland Urban Interface.

Western States have taken on the National Fire Plan challenge and focused the past two years on treating acres, public awareness, assessment, and planning. They have done this through redirecting their existing workforce and priorities. The commitment to NFP success in the WUI has come at a cost to many states in their traditional forestry programs.

Success of the National Fire Plan is dependant upon the ability of the states to deliver the management and administrative oversight of NFP programs and projects.

Concern: The capacity of many western states to deliver and administer the NFP WUI accomplishment has been exceeded. The continued progress of NFP WUI implementation requires consistent sustainable funding to support state capacity to manage and deliver meaningful accomplishment on the ground.

Alternatives:

(1) Leave things the way they are. **Pros:** doesn't rock the boat. **Cons:** state forestry organizations may not have the staff to deliver NFP WUI programs / projects at a level commensurate with available funding. Implementation will suffer.

(2) Maintain current allocation proportion to the NASF regions. Change the distribution of NFP SFA funding to 35% preparedness by traditional formula and 65% Competitive grant. **Pros:** States will have more flexibility to utilize NFP SFA funds where they are needed to support implementation and deliver products. **Cons:** May shift directed funding from on the ground accomplishment to management and administration of the projects.

Recommendation: Alternative 2.

Contact Person: Richard Homann, CO;

National Fire Reporting

Background: NASF Fire committee is reviewing the adequacy of the national fire reporting. The Southern Fire Chiefs have offered an issue paper with Short and Long term approaches to dealing with this problem. They have also suggested a list of data elements for reporting. The Western State Fire Managers agree that our national fire reporting does not capture the full scope of the nation's wildland fire problem. The actual mechanism for reporting varies widely in each state and has evolved into what is most practical and useful for that state. For the most part, we agree with the data elements recommended by the Southern Fire Chiefs. Some elements, however (such as homes and structures saved or near misses to firefighters) are data, which are subjective in nature, and may compromise credibility.

Concern: The lack of adequate wildland fire reporting may result in lack of support for continuing fire prevention, preparedness, and mitigation and suppression programs.

Recommended: We believe that this issue is one that would be best addressed at the National Fire Managers (Southern Fire Chiefs, Northeast Area Fire Supervisors and Western State Fire Managers) meeting proposed for San Antonio in 2003.

Contact Person: Don Westover, NE: Tim Murphy, MT

Federal Medical Standards Required for Pack Test

Most of the Western States utilize the Par-Q as their only medical check prior to administering the Pack Test. Many Western States administer the pack test not only for their employees, but for contractor's and fire department members. The Western States Pack Test thousands of potential firefighters each year in a very economical manner. Idaho & Montana recently lost a firefighter and a logger, respectively, in preparing to pass the Pack Test.

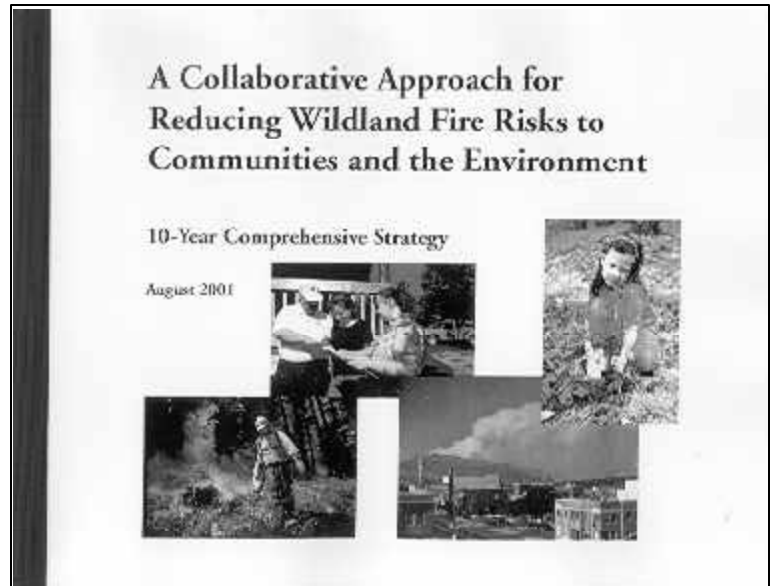
The Federal Fire and Aviation Leadership Council authorized an interagency team to review if the present physical examination process was adequate for federal employees who participate in arduous wildland fire fighting duties. It was the consensus of the team that the current physical examination process was inadequate for the intended purpose of reasonably assuring a level of employee health necessary so that the employee will not be at unnecessary risk, or put others at risk, in performing arduous duties associated with firefighting. Current physical examination practices used by the federal wildland firefighting agencies vary widely and none of these practices were viewed as acceptable either from a good medical practice standpoint or a potential legal standpoint. Beginning in 2002 a beta test of the Federal Interagency Wildland Firefighter Medical Qualification System will be implemented by the Department of Interior agencies in the Southwest Geographic Area. Arduous duty federal wildland firefighters will receive a medical examination and clearance by an agency funded person/health care professional familiar with physical examination procedures, and licensed to conduct a physical examination. The medical examination is mandatory for all permanent full time federal employees. The examination must be completed and reviewed before the employee can perform arduous wildland firefighting duties. Once the employee has passed the physical examination they may then proceed to the agency administered "work capacity test". After the beta test is completed and reviewed it is expected that it will become mandatory for all federal firefighting agencies for the 2003 fire season.

The Western State Fire Manager's are concerned that at some time in the future the federal wildland firefighting agencies may try to convince the NWCG that the Federal Interagency Wildland Firefighter Medical Qualification Standards should be adopted and used by all wildland firefighting agencies.

10-Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan

On May 23, 2002, the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan will be unveiled. The Implementation Plan is a collaboration of a wide range of stakeholders intended to outline the approach and actions that will achieve the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy long-term objectives. The action items that will ultimately be identified will provide the framework within which the states will need to work.

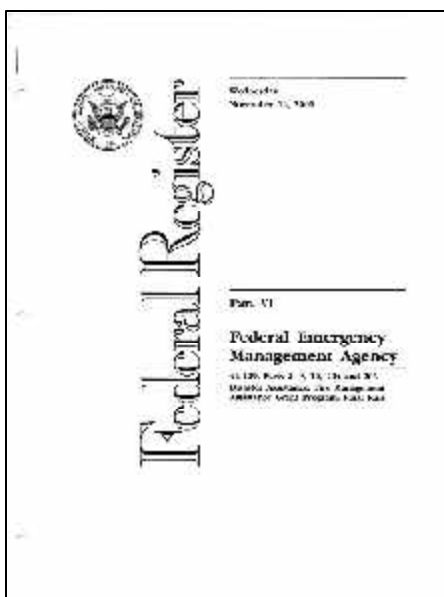
The WSFM have embraced the concepts outlined in the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy, and are looking forward to implementing the identified action items. However, the WSFM have identified several areas that need attention in order to ensure its effective and efficient implementation.



- **STATE CAPACITY:** There will be impacts on WSFM programs and organizations resulting from the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy. The emphasis in the Strategy is on a collaborative framework as the foundation for getting things done. It encourages cooperation to define actions in order to reach a desired set of accomplishments. Success will depend upon this collaborative method, and stakeholders will look to the states for leadership. Building effective and long-lasting relationships requires time and people, or in other words, a strong state capacity in order to develop these collaborations so that the action items of the plan can be delivered effectively and efficiently. The 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy appears to miss this very basic and crucial step to ensure the success of the effort.
- **CHANGING CULTURE:** This concern relates directly to the above issue of state capacity. The National Fire Plan and subsequent 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy has initiated a change in culture within many State Forestry Agencies. The action items require accomplishment-based program founded in collaboration and consensus-building in addition to the existing task-oriented culture of most forestry agencies. These are special skills that need to be incorporated into our agencies, and will require some time. Timelines and expectations outlined in the Implementation Plan may be somewhat ambitious given this situation.

- **CONTINUITY OF EFFORT:** There is concern about maintaining continuity and focus in this effort given the potential turnover of some of the western governors and other representatives. States will need to work with their (newly-elected) governors and other representatives to urge continuity of commitment to this effort.
- **RISK ASSESSMENT/MAPPING:** The WSFM would encourage caution on a large-scale wildland-urban interface risk assessment. A nationwide view of the situation compares too many areas of unlike environments. The southern states are working on a 13-state regional assessment; this may be an effort to consider. The WSFM favor an approach that allows risk assessments be developed at a local level and consolidated to paint a western picture.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY/PERFORMANCE MEASURES:** This is a relatively long-term effort that will require leadership to meet on a periodic basis in order to perform a comprehensive review of progress. The purpose of these periodic reviews is to ensure actions and accomplishments are leading to success. In regards to performance measures, the WSFM suggest that the western states come together to discuss and establish consistent methods of measuring performance that meet critical accountability expectations and paint a realistic view of our accomplishments.

The WSFM recognize the value of the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy to meet the needs of the wildfire situation in the west, and support its implementation. The anticipated Implementation Plan will help ensure all stakeholders address the needs in a cohesive and efficient manner. Everyone concerned needs to be aware that this effort will impact our organizations, and need to be prepared for it to happen.



Potential for State Foresters to participate in FEMA's First Responder Assistance Programs for FY03

The recent Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance to Firefighters grant initiative has not been available to the states according to FEMA administrative decision. The Western State Fire Managers feel strongly that the funds should have been available to state forestry organizations because the states provide first response and assist local first responders in meeting their mission.

In addition, the FEMA '03 initiative includes the provision for \$3.5 billion as a First Responder Initiative. The assistance is focused on planning, training, equipment, and enhancement of

mutual aid capabilities. The state foresters and their cooperators at the local level provide many of these services. Therefore, state foresters should be eligible to participate in the competitive grant process.

It is recommended that the NASF Fire Committee work with FEMA to allow state forester participation.

National Fire Plan Reporting

The USFS is implementing a paperless reporting system to facilitate their information processing. It culminated in 2001, with PMAS and National Fire Plan (NFP) reporting requirements (NFPInfo and FORCE) going on-line. Indications are that there is considerable variation in what is being reported between states and regions. This results in inaccurate and inadequate reporting of accomplishments.

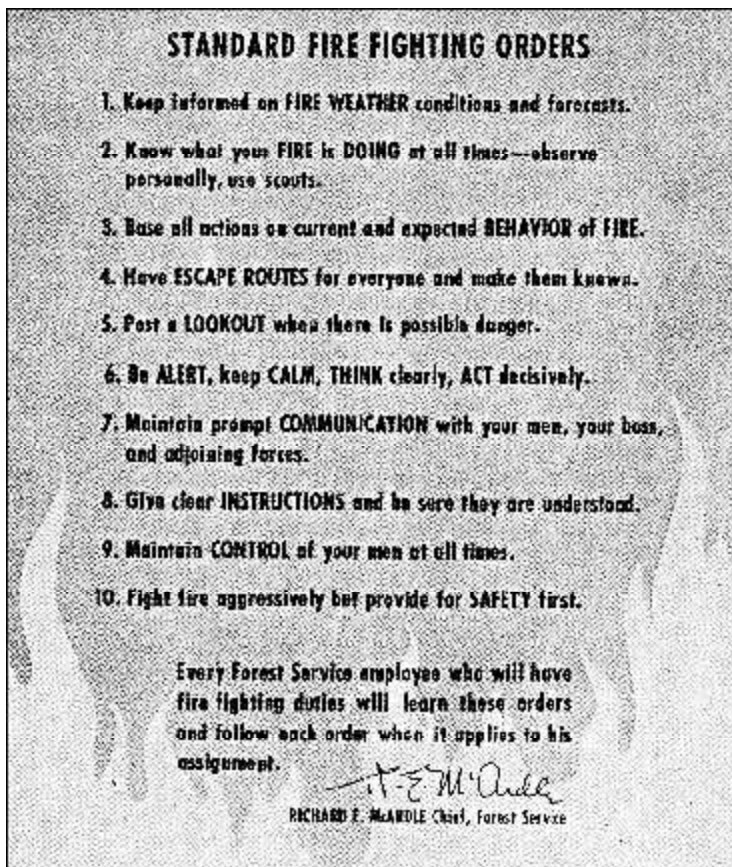
The NFP Reporting requirements have resulted in a significant burden on the states. The electronic data entry forms are multi-staged, three-dimensional procedures that are not very user-friendly. Reporting requirements have gone from a programmatic emphasis to a project-by-project basis. Although the system is a paperless one, it contradicts the spirit of the Paperwork Reduction Act, as reporting requirements have resulted in a fourfold increase of data entry. This expanded and multi-staged reporting necessitates a (unnecessary) time commitment by staff that takes away from the ultimate objective, which are on-the-ground accomplishments. The current configuration of the reporting systems is not organized very well, is conducive for data entry mistakes, and states are unable to examine information summaries or generate reports. Difficulties are encountered with grant periods crossing calendar and fiscal years, and confusion exists as to when accomplishments are actually to be recorded.

We appreciate and support the effort to centralize data collection on an Internet-based system to capture and extract needed information to ensure accountability. The USDA & USDI have agreed to review the current reporting systems, and develop a single method to address all NFP Programs. A task force is being formed to provide input in developing the product, including performance measures. We will provide a representative of the WSFM in this process, as invited.

Ten Standard Firefighting Orders

The Western State Fire Managers (WSFM) discussed the Ten Standard Firefighting Orders at their annual meeting in April 2002. The original Orders were developed in 1957 by a task force commissioned by the US Forest Service. The Orders were organized into a deliberate and sequential way to facilitate a decision process that could be applied to all wildland fire situations. The Orders were reorganized in the 1980s to form an acronym to make them easier to memorize. This action destroyed the intended sequence and the intent of the original Ten Standard Firefighting Orders to be used as a program and logical risk hazard assessment system.

Recommendation: Several other groups have had similar discussions concerning the Orders and have made recommendations that the wildland fire community return to the utilization of the original 1957 Orders. The Western State Fire Managers agree with these recommendations and support the initiative to return to the usage of the original Ten Standard Firefighting Orders.



Action: The Fire Managers request that the Council of Western State Foresters support the national initiative to have the wildland fire community return to the utilization of the 1957 Ten Standard Firefighting Orders by the 2003 fire season. The NWCG Training, Incident Operations Standards, Safety and Health, Training and Publications Management System Working Teams will be the primary working teams affected by the recommended change. This change can be gradual with the Ten Standard Firefighting Orders switched back to the original 1957 listing in wildland fire publications as they come up for review and updating. The WSFM recommend that the return to the original Orders start as soon as possible and that any NWCG documents currently under revision be changed so that the Orders are switched back to the 1957 Original listing.

Resolution (Draft)

Ten Standard Firefighting Orders.

Resolution No. _____

Whereas, the original Ten Standard Firefighting Orders were organized in a deliberate, sequential order to be utilized as a planning tool to recognize and manage exposure to fire hazards;

Whereas, in the 1980s the Orders were reorganized into an acronym in an effort to make them easier to memorize;

Whereas, the WSFMs feel that this reorganization destroyed the original intent of the deliberate, sequential listing of the Orders;

Now, therefore be it resolved that: The Council of Western States Foresters recommend that:

1. The NWCG support the return to the nationwide usage of the original 1957 version of the Ten Standard Firefighting Orders.
2. The transition back to the original Orders should start immediately and any NWCG publications currently under revision should be edited to reflect the original 1957 listing of the Orders.

National Contracts for Privately Operated Engines, Crews and Watertenders

The state and federal agencies in the Pacific Northwest have developed standard contracts with private entities for crews, engines, and watertenders. This system has worked well as long as these were used by the contracting agencies. Last year significant numbers of privately operated crews and engines were sent out of the area; in some cases the receiving agencies were reluctant to honor the agreements. In addition, this led to a shortage of available resources in the Pacific Northwest.

The U.S. Forest Service Contracting Office is in the process of developing national contracts with contractors for engine, crews and watertenders. The Fire Manager have several concerns:

- Potential development of these agreements without state involvement.
- Possible damage to relationships amongst cooperator when the use rates differ greatly.
- Loss of local resources
- Potential for the “closest resource” concept being violated.
- The national mobilization has worked well in the past, within each of the geographic areas’ mobilization system. National contracts could easily break a system regionally and/or nationally.

Some Geographic Area Coordination Groups are opposed to national agreements for privately operated firefighting resources. Before the USDA Forest Service makes any decision, extensive discussion is needed within all Geographic Area Coordination Groups.

Adopting Federal Standards for Fire and Aviation Operation Guide

The USFS, in conjunction with the Thirty-Mile incident, has adopted the BLM’s Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations Guide (Red Book) making it a Federal Interdepartmental guide for fire operations. The Western State Fire Managers supports this move towards uniform fire management standards by the federal agencies. Consistent operational and managerial direction by the federal agencies should result in a safer fire ground and for more effective state support and cooperation.

The Guide is a mixture of fire management guidelines and federal policy. While the states support the managerial elements of the Guide, integration of federal policy at all levels makes it impossible to accept the document in total. The 17 Western States have very diverse fire programs & a wide variety of legislative mandates, which would make adoption of the Guide very impractical. The Western State Fire Managers request that their representative to the NWCG IOS Working Team to recommend not adopting the Guide as an NWCG supported document.

Information Items

Regulatory compliance of National Fire Plan Grants

Many unanswered questions exist on the role of federal agencies in assuring compliance with environmental regulations as they issue National Fire Plan grants to states and communities. Considerable time and effort at all levels is focused on these questions rather than on implementation of actions.

The National Fire Plan grants program for doing fuels treatments on state and private lands is at risk if we do not deal with the questions of how federal agencies are to address regulatory compliance regarding NEPA, NHPA, and ESA.

On one hand, compliance must occur; on the other hand, we will lose the participation of the states, communities, and private landowners if compliance procedures are onerous or untimely (i.e., lawsuit risk vs. program failure). If this happens, we will fail to meet the intent of Congress to reduce the risk to life, costs, losses, and damage to communities and federal lands. Furthermore, failure to bring forestlands into conditions more consistent with historical fire regimes will pose substantial long-term risk to listed species, ecosystem health and historical sites. Thus, misapplication of process to protect species and sites may have the opposite result.

Several western states are concerned that Federal agency oversight for regulatory compliance on grants issued to a state under the National Fire Plan, could establish a precedent that will undermine effectiveness of other existing programs where the states historically have had the lead for environmental compliance.

Roscommon Funding

Several years ago the Council of Western State Foresters supported the funding of this equipment development center. That authorization expires and needs to be renewed. The Western State Fire Managers recommend that the funding for this center continue.

Resolution (Draft)

FUNDING FOR THE ROSCOMMON EQUIPMENT CENTER

Resolution No. _____

Whereas: Roscommon Equipment Center has provided equipment development support for State forestry agencies since 1971. In particular, Roscommon has provided leadership in the transformation of military excess equipment obtained under the FEPP program to meet state and rural fire agency needs. Few individual state agencies have the staff expertise to achieve comparable goals.

Whereas: The Council of Western State Foresters recommended a funding level of \$150,000 for the West's share of funding for the Roscommon Equipment in 1998.

Whereas: Since that time, the Center has been responding to western requests in a timely fashion and has created a useful and popular website.

Whereas: The USFS and the CWSF agreed to reaffirm funding for Roscommon every 5 years.

Now, therefore be it resolved that: The Council of Western State Foresters agree to allow Western Fire Grant money, at the current funding level, to help support The Roscommon Equipment Center at its current funding level.

State and local government participation in non-fire incidents.

During and after the National Incident Management Team assignments to the World Trade Center Disaster, Pentagon, and 2002 Olympics incidents, the issue of state and local government employees participating on these teams on non-fire incidents surfaced. The main issue is that state and local government employees may not have proper authorization to be mobilized out of their jurisdictions, states, and regions to participate on non-fire incidents. There may be issues of liability, workers compensation insurance coverage and other administrative problems that need to be resolved to ensure that state and local government employees are authorized to participate in non-fire incidents.

National Incident Management Teams and other types of incident management teams will continue to be utilized on non-fire incidents. In fact their usage will probably increase under the Homeland Security scenario in support of FEMA in managing non-fire incidents in the future. States should review their Master Cooperative Agreements that they have in effect with the US Forest Service to ensure that the appropriate language authorizing the mobilization and utilization of state and local government employees outside of their jurisdictional areas on non-fire incidents is within the scope and intent of the Agreement.

THIRTYMILE ACCIDENT PREVENTION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Thirty-mile Accident Prevention Implementation Plan identifies twenty six (26) of thirty one (31) action items that will affect interagency policy. These changes have been initiated through the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). Work on these changes will generally be through specific NWCG Working Teams. The Western State Fire Managers will continue to actively participate on NWCG Working Teams for the development of the interagency policy changes. The specific working teams identified within the Thirty-mile Accident Prevention Implementation Plan are Training (TWT), Incident Operations (IOSWT) and Safety and Health (S&HWT).

Bill Baden

The WSFM recognizes the valuable service that Bill Baden has provided to the West. A resolution is requested to thank him for his outstanding service and wish him well on his retirement.

Resolution (Draft)

Bill Baden Retirement

Resolution No. _____

Whereas: Bill Baden is retiring as the National Association of State Forester's representative at the National Interagency Fire Center, and;

Whereas: Bill is retiring for the third time. The first time after a long and prestigious career with the USDA Forest Service and the second time after a distinguished career with the National Fire Protection Association as their Wildland Firefighting Specialist, and;

Whereas: Bill has done an outstanding job representing the states in Boise and has particularly supported the Council of Western State Foresters and the Western State Fire Managers.

Now Be It Resolved that: The Council of Western State Foresters wishes to thank Bill Baden for all of his hard work supporting forestry and firefighting programs in the West, and;

Hope that Bill finally decides he can retire and enjoy life and his family.

National Fire Prevention Week

The current National Fire Prevention Week in October, which heightens fire prevention awareness for structural and wild land fire, occurs at a time of the year when the western fire season is coming to an end. As a result, the opportunity to get a distinct wild land message out to the western public is lost.

To meet this distinct prevention niche, Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has written a proclamation to recognize the third week of June each year as Wildfire Prevention Week. In doing so, DNR is joining with the state of Idaho, the only state that has this week set aside to recognize wildfire prevention. In addition, the state of Oregon is in the process of requesting a signed proclamation by its governor to also proclaim the third week in June as Wildfire Prevention Week in Oregon.

Using National Arbor Day as an example, each state could determine which days work best in their state rather than try to identify one day or week that works for all states. Delivering consistent messages during a targeted set of dates in each state is the primary goal.

Resolution (Draft)

Establish a Wildfire Awareness Week or Day.

Resolution No. _____

Whereas: The current National Fire Prevention Week in October, which heightens fire prevention awareness for structural and wildland fire, happens at a time of the year when the western fire season is winding down, and;

Whereas: The opportunity to get a distinct wildland message out to the western public is lost due to the current National Fire Prevention Week in October, and;

Whereas: The states of Washington and Idaho have already set aside the third week in June as Wildfire Prevention Week and Oregon is in the process of requesting a signed proclamation by its governor, and;

Whereas: Using National Arbor Day as an example, each state could determine which days work best in their state rather than try to identify one day or week that works for all states, and;

Whereas: Delivering consistent messages during a targeted set of dates in each state is the primary goal.

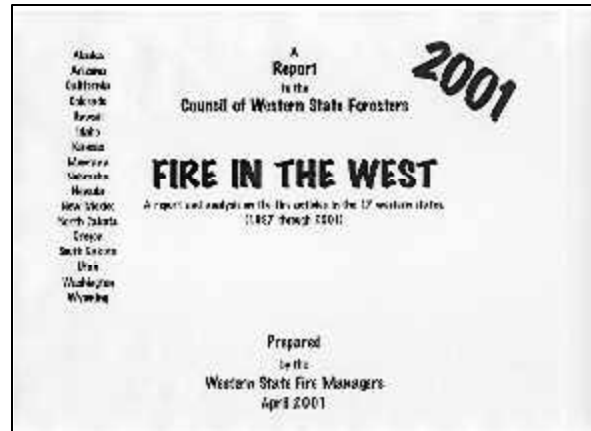
Now Be It Resolved tha: The Council of Western State Foresters urges each western state to establish a Wildfire Awareness Week or Day.

Fire in the West Fire Season 2001

Summary

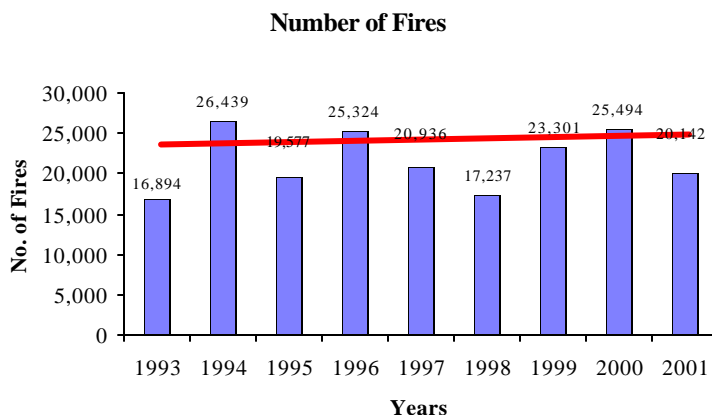
When the Western State Fire Managers began planning an annual “fire report” for the Council of Western State Foresters, it was decided that it was not desirable to mandate another report, but use what is already required and completed. To that end, it was decided to use the **Annual Wildfire Summary Report** (FS-3100-8) required by USDA Forest Service as the source document for this report.

The **Annual Wildfire Summary Report** details the number of fires and the acres burned for nine causes (lightning, camp-fire, smoking, debris burning, arson, equipment use, railroads, children, and miscellaneous), and the numbers of fires and acres burned for seven size classes (Class A - 0.25 acres or less, Class B - 0.26 to 9 acres, Class C - 10 to 99 acres, Class D - 100 to 299 acres, Class E - 300 to 999 acres, Class F 1000 to 4999 acres, and Class G - 5000 acres or more).



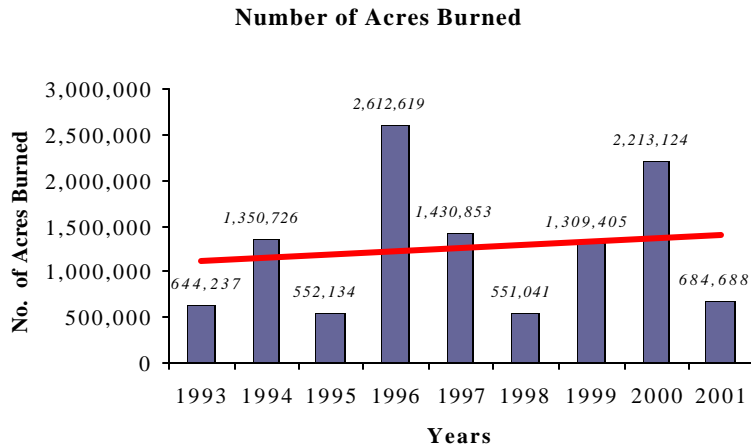
Each State provided copies of the **Annual Wildfire Summary Report** for use in the development of this report. This information can be found in the Detail State Statistics section of this report.

Fire continues to have a significant impact on the wildlands of the West, and the weather continues to show that it is in charge.



Numbers of Fires - The numbers of fires in the West continues a slight average increase. The 2001 fire season was an average year in the West, with 20,142 fires. Last year's five year chart showed the number of fires in the West average at 21,422 fires. The data shows that over the last fire years the number of

fires per year has varied from 17,237 in 1998 to a high of 25,494 fires in 2000. California has the greatest number of fires each year (averaging 6,146 fires).



burned. The 2001 fire season was mild compared to those peak years, and measuring it against the five-year average, was half of the normal burned area.

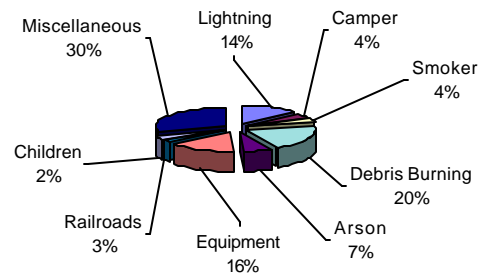
Causes of the Fires - The causes of the fires in the West continue to stay about the same. Lightning continues to be the leading cause of fires in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah and Wyoming. Debris burning and miscellaneous causes continue to be responsible for over half of the fires in the West.

Numbers of Acres Burned -

The average number of acres burned in the West continues to climb. When it comes to acreages protected and burned, Alaska usually has no equal in the average acres burned, but the last several years the acreage burned has been much reduced.

The 1996 and 2000 fire seasons in the West were bad, with over 2 million acres being

Percentage of Fires (by cause) 5-year average (1997 - 2001)



1998			
No.	No. Acres		
Fires	Burned		
17,237	551,041		
No.	No. Acres	%	
Fires	Burned		
2,663	251,299	15	
623	2,411	4	
757	6,191	4	
3,668	47,862	21	
932	39,577	5	
2,935	64,061	17	
431	6,050	3	
473	3,458	3	
4,755	130,132	28	
No.	No. Acres	%	
Fires	Burned		
9,449	1,115	55	
5,500	9,630	32	
1,734	42,003	10	
292	38,922	2	
160	86,333	1	
81	150,958	0	
21	222,080	0	

2000			
No.	No. Acres		
Fires	Burned		
25,494	2,213,124		
No.	No. Acres	%	
Fires	Burned		
4,051	1,103,252	16	
851	8,917	3	
1,056	25,202	4	
5,168	150,067	20	
2,089	124,619	8	
3,375	234,618	13	
695	78,188	3	
546	1,682	2	
7,663	485,579	30	
No.	No. Acres	%	
Fires	Burned		
11,246	4,150	44	
9,529	18,192	37	
3,588	75,023	14	
544	78,050	2	
332	154,082	1	
161	369,392	1	
95	1,514,235	0	

Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2002

Frank Smith, the host fire manager, called the workshop to order at 0810 hours, April 7, 2002. This year's workshop was being held in Wyndham Garden Hotel, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The following State Fire Managers were in attendance:

Alaska	Joe Stam
Arizona	Dave Behrens
California	Jim Wright
Colorado	Rich Homann
Hawaii	Wayne Ching
Idaho	Brian Shiplett
Montana	Tim Murphy
Nebraska	Don Westover
Nevada	Bob Ashworth
New Mexico	Frank Smith
North Dakota	Mike Santucci
Oregon	Bill Lafferty
South Dakota	Steve Hasenohrl
Utah	David Dalrymple
Washington	John Viada
Wyoming	Ray Weidenhaft

The following guests were in attendance:

Al Murphy, BLM Boise, representing Interior Agencies
Bobby Young, Texas Forest Service, rep: Southern Fire Chiefs
Janet Anderson Tyler, USFS Forest Service, Washington, DC
Dennis Orbus, USDA Forest Service, Region 5
Tim Murphy, BLM, NIFC
Don Artley, State Forester, State of Montana
Jim Lawrence, Western Forestry Leadership Coalition
Charlene Schildwachter, Western Forestry Leadership Coalition
Barbara Kennedy, USDA Forest Service, Region 6
Arlene Weber-Sword, Alaska Division of Forestry, Facilitator
Bill Teie, Recording Secretary

- **Welcome** – Toby Martinez, State Forester for the State of New Mexico, welcomed the group and thanked the fire managers for bringing the rain. He thanked the fire managers in the allocation of wildland/urban federal grants.

This fire season is starting out to be a real bad one. One of their first fires took 28 homes. They have a 20-community strategy...they have preplanned the 20 New Mexico communities as their top priorities. April to July is their historic fire season. Type 2 crews are in limited supply.

- **Western Forestry Leadership Coalition** – Jim Lawrence and Charlene Schildwachter briefed the group on the various projects the coalition is working on:

- o National Fire Plan – Implementation, funding, support, and communication.
- o Farm Bill – Cooperative funding, watershed funding was removed from consideration last Friday. The bill has been passed; it is now in conference committee.

Communications is very important. We also have to connect the “west” to the processes. Try to educate the public and lawmakers on what the problem really is and how to improve the condition.

There is a concern that the state and federal agencies speak with one voice. There are regional differences that must be considered, but the state and federal leadership should speak with one voice on the bigger, more common issues.

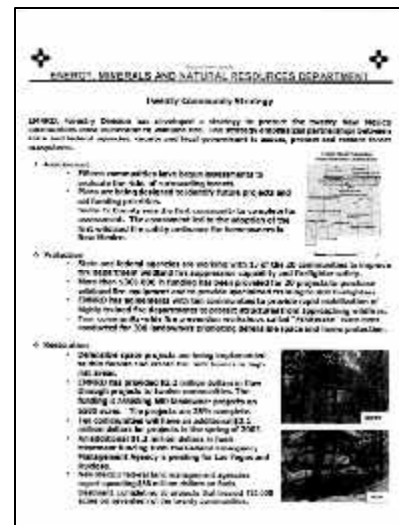
- **National Fire Plan** – Janet Anderson-Tyler briefed the group on the status of the National Fire Plan. There are two new pieces of the plan being rolled out next week: (1) Cohesive strategy; (2) Executive Planning Charter.

- o In 2001, the federal agencies hired over 10,000 new people, “rehabbed” about a million acres.
- o The 2002 funds increase a little over last year. There will be a national “cohesive strategy” for the federal agencies.

- **Agency Representations** – The various federal agencies briefed the group on various issues:

- o USDI Department of Interior – Al Murphy, BLM, NIFC, provided the briefing. The National Fire Plan is driving the direction of BLM. The plan is to allow the decisions for projects to be made at the lowest level possible.

The BLM “Red Book” is being used by the federal agencies this fire season. They will be mailed this May 15. The ownership of this new policy book is still under discussion. The hope is that there be one policy document, but that may be impossible. Concept is good, but?



- o USDA Forest Service – Janet reported on the “state of the Forest Service.” The top leadership has changed at the FS. Fire and Aviation has five top priorities: policy and procedures; budget and targets; personnel, culture and performance; plans; and external relations.
- o National Interagency Fire Center – Don Artley briefed the group. Don will retire in May and then become the NASF representative at NIFC effective July 1, 2002.

Outlook for the fire season – the eastern seaboard and the southwest are a real concern. All areas, except the northwest have submitted severity requests. If we have an active year, the military may not be available.

- o Council of Western State Foresters – the council relies heavily on this group.
- o National Association of State Foresters – Congress has asked the NASF on how can they reduce the costs of fires. Don is part of a group that will be meeting with staffers on this issue.
- o Interagency National Fire Plan Fire Assessment – Tim Murphy, BLM, NIFC, reported on the status of the project. Two major issues: increase firefighting safety and reduction of risk.
- o Committee Reports – the group was briefed on the status of the various committees:
 - Aviation – Bob Ashworth briefed the group on the status of a joint state aviation managers meet and organize. They have met and they felt it was successful, but may need some encouragement to continue.
 - Federal Fire Policy – Dave Behrens reports they are working hard! Dave reports he will become more involved.
 - Fire Investigation – Jim Wright reported that a course has been developed and will be piloted this spring. The plan is to have the work completed by 2003.
 - Incident Business Practices – Dave Behrens is deep into working on major incident costs. They are also looking into the automation the various cost tracking. The minutes are sent to each state.
 - IOSWT – Tim Murphy reported on the workings of this working team.

- Incident Management Team (IMT) configuration will be finalized by NWCG in the fall of .2003. A Type 1 IMT will be 28 people, plus allowance for 6 trainees & 10 additional positions negotiated with agency administrator(s). A Type 2 Long IMT will have 20 members & 7 negotiated positions. A short type 2 IMT will be 10 positions.

- NWCG revalidated the proposed crew typing (Type 1, 2IA & 2). A new type 3 crew is being proposed, comments to Tim on the Type 3 crew draft by Sept. 1

- NWCG IOS, Training & Safety & Health Working teams propose to go back to the original ten standard 1957 orders.

- The ICS 209 has been updated. It is web-based and user friendly.

- 410-1 is being updated; comments to Tim by Sept 1.

- 310-1 has several addendums. They include national standards for three levels of wildfire investigators; there will be two levels of helicopter managers (helicopter boss & helicopter manager); Radio Operator (RADO) & IA Dispatcher positions are being modified. A Singe Engine Air Tanker Manager is also being proposed. Comments to Tim by Sept. 1.

- Large fire costs, comments to Wally Bennett (wbennett@state.mt.us)

- BLM “Red book” Standard for Fire Operations is being printed. MT will distribute to states late May. All Federal agencies are adopting. WSFM need to consider application to their program.

- National Fire Prevention Strategy – Wayne Ching and Al Murphy reported that there have been three meetings. The desire it to develop goals and critical issues, actions, etc. The document is in third draft. It should be ready for review and comment in a month.

- NFPA Liaison – Tim Murphy reported on two issues;

- NFPA 1051, dealing with firefighter qualifications, now includes two levels of fire fighter and two levels of fire officers and wild-land/interface coordinator and specialists. The 2002 edition of NFPA 1051 Standard for Wildland Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications, is available from NFPA.

- We need to watch to see if NFPA begins development of a ICS standard.

- ITMWT – Rich Homann reports the team is deep into development of the ROSS program. Some in the group wondered how involved the states will be in this system. There is concern with the need for double-entry requirements. If ROSS is going to take more dispatchers, then it will fail. There are not enough now!
- Fire Weather – The National Weather Service has been told not to be in competition with the private sector. They will not provide forecasts for states for non-wildfire programs. The NWS became concerned that state forecasters would provide competing forecasts.
- Training – Rich Homann reported for Steve Hart, our representative. Steve is concerned that the states are not giving him direction. He suggests that we invite members of the team to meet or conference call with the fire managers. The Federal Fire Training Strategy was discussed. It was developed for federal fire managers, thus no states were involved in its development.
- NWCG Wildland/Urban Interface Committee – Joe Stam briefed the group on this working team and FireWise. This program has been very successful. FireWise is not the end, because the WUI problem is not over. They are attempting to develop future strategies. It is important that Joe hear from each of the fire managers so he knows what they want.
- Pacific Islands Liaison – Dennis Orbus reported that the islands met at their annual meeting in February. Forest health and invasive species are some of the problems that they discussed.
- Radio Communications – David Dalrymple briefed the group. Technology may solve the digital radio issue. Also, NIFC is replacing all of the hand-held radios in their cache. They may loan them out until the “12.5 standard.”
- S520/620 Steering Committee – Joe Stam reported that they are short of student candidates. If the states have people they want to get trained, this is the year.
- Southern Fire Chiefs Liaison – Bobby Young reported on the status of the southern fire chiefs. The issues between the west and the south are very similar. The 13 states in the south are jointly working on a risk assessment.
- Stewardship Liaison – Brian Shiplett reported that the stewardship committee are more interested to spending Fire Plan money than we are. They are concerned with the deadlines.

- Roscommon – Don Westover reported that there has been some contact with them, but it is on a state-by-state basis. Our support of them was for five years. That is about to expire. They have a lot of information on their website which aids rural fire departments.

- NWCG Safety and Health Working Team – Bob Ashworth reported that their next meeting is in a couple of weeks. They have been asked to review the Administrator's Guide to Critical Incident Management. He will ask for assistance in its review. They hope to have a new interactive CD-Rom dealing with Fireline safety. The Canadians have developed a great tool.

- Urban & Community Forestry Liaison – John Viada reported that they have not met, but they want to!

- WGA Rx Fire Steering Committee – Ray Weidenhaft reported that the group has been dissolved.

- CWSF SIP Grants Committee – Rich Homann reported that the SIP grant program awarded \$1.045 million to deal with bug infestations. The committee required a competitive grant process similar to the WUI grant program. This funding was one-time only, but there may be more dollars available at a later date.

- Aerial Delivery of Firefighters – Brian Shiplett reported that it is a done deal!

- Section Representatives – no reports.

- *Adjournment* – the meeting was adjourned at 1730 hours.



April 8, 2002

Wayne Ching, the WSFM Chair, called the workshop to order at 0800 hours, April 8, 2002. This year's workshop was being held in Wyndham Garden Hotel, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The following State Fire Managers were in attendance:

Alaska	Joe Stam
Arizona	Dave Behrens
California	Jim Wright
Colorado	Rich Homann
Hawaii	Wayne Ching
Idaho	Brian Shiple
Montana	Tim Murphy
Nebraska	Don Westover
Nevada	Bob Ashworth
New Mexico	Frank Smith
North Dakota	Mike Santucci
Oregon	Bill Lafferty
South Dakota	Steve Hasenohrl
Utah	David Dalrymple
Washington	John Viada
Wyoming	Ray Weidenhaft

The following guests were in attendance:

Al Murphy, BLM Boise, representing Interior Agencies
Bobby Young, Texas Forest Service, rep: Southern Fire Chiefs
Janet Anderson Tyler, USFS Forest Service, Washington, DC
Dennis Orbus, USDA Forest Service, Region 5
Don Artley, State Forester, State of Montana
Jim Lawrence, Western Forestry Leadership Coalition
Charlene Schildwachter, Western Forestry Leadership Coalition
Barbara Kennedy, USDA Forest Service, Region 6
Arlene Weber-Sword, Alaska Division of Forestry, Facilitator
Dan Bailey, USDA Forest Service, FireWise
Nancy Porter, USDA Forest Service, FireWise
Karen Magnino, FEMA, Washington, DC
Paige Lewis, NASF Fort Collins
Paul Orbuch, WGA Denver
Mike Ziolk, Oregon Department of Forestry
Jim Payne, USDA Forest Service, Region 6
Bill Teie, Recording Secretary

- **FireWise** – In 1985, talk began between agencies about the wildland/urban interface fire situation. Dan and Nancy updated the group on FireWise, and outstanding program.

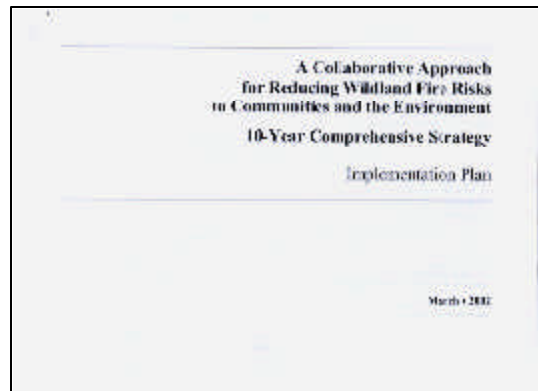
- **PBS “Fire Wars”** – Will air May 7th. It is an outstanding presentation. A start in the education of the public on fire in the woods.

- **Federal Emergency Management Agency** – Karen briefed the group on the status of the new FEMA regulations. This is the first rule change in 30 years. They became effective in November 2001. There are some extensive changes.

- **Western Governors’ Association** – Paul and Paige briefed the group on the status of the 10-year plan to implement the National Fire Plan. Forest ecosystem health is one of their highest priorities. Fire Season 2000 moved fire up on the governor’s priorities. The Bush Administration has endorsed the plan; it has been delivered to Congress. On May 23rd the Governors and two Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior, will have a signing ceremony in Boise to rollout the implementation plan.

- o Potential Impacts – (1) Emphasis on collaboration, local, region and national; (2) Comprehensive fire planning with emphasis on local governments; (3) expansion of fire management (4) emphasis on cross-boundary projects; (5) listing communities at risk; (6) improved fire reporting; (7) decision making; (8) an increased role of DOI in funding local government operations; etc.

- o Questions – (1) how will the states deal with “capacity”? (2) how do the states look at risk assessment?

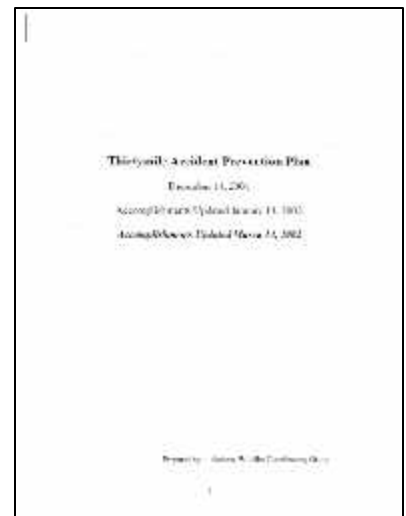


- **Thirty Mile Fire** – Jim Payne briefed the group on the events that led up to the burn over and the actions that followed it.

- **WRAP-Rx Fire Emissions Task Force** – Mike Ziolkowski briefed the group on the status of smoke regulations. This has become a very complicated subject that WILL impact forestry organizations.

- **Issue Papers** – The group broke into groups to begin the development of the various issue papers, etc.

- **Adjournment** – the meeting was adjourned at 1700 hours.



April 9, 2002

Wayne Ching, WSFM Chair, called the workshop to order at 0800 hours, April 9, 2002. This year's workshop was being held in Wyndham Garden Hotel, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The following State Fire Managers were in attendance:

Alaska	Joe Stam
Arizona	Dave Behrens
California	Jim Wright
Colorado	Rich Homann
Hawaii	Wayne Ching
Idaho	Brian Shiple
Montana	Tim Murphy
Nebraska	Don Westover
Nevada	Bob Ashworth
New Mexico	Frank Smith
North Dakota	Mike Santucci
Oregon	Bill Lafferty
South Dakota	Steve Hasenohrl
Utah	David Dalrymple
Washington	John Viada
Wyoming	Ray Weidenhaft

The following guests were in attendance:

Al Murphy, BLM Boise, representing Interior Agencies
Bobby Young, Texas Forest Service, rep: Southern Fire Chiefs
Janet Anderson Tyler, USFS Forest Service, Washington, DC
Dennis Orbus, USDA Forest Service, Region 5
Jim Lawrence, Western Forestry Leadership Coalition
Barbara Kennedy, USDA Forest Service, Region 6
Arlene Weber-Sword, Alaska Division of Forestry, Facilitator
Nancy Neskauskas, NMSF, Bernalillo
Kim Kostelnik, NMSF, Economic Development Forester
Bill Teie, Recording Secretary

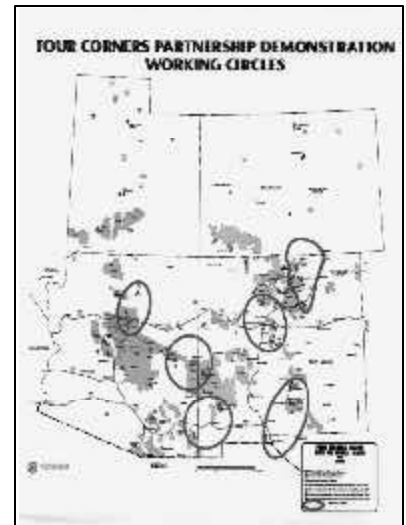
- *Los Alamos, 2 years after* – Nancy briefed the group on the status of Los Alamos two years after the fire.

- ***Four Corners Sustainable Forests*** – Kim briefed the group on this four-state project.

- ***Issue Papers*** – The group broke into groups to begin the development of the various issue papers, etc.

- ***Adjournment*** – the meeting was adjourned at 1200 hours.

- ***Field Trip*** – The group went into the field to view two fuels management project that the New Mexico Forestry Division is involved in.



April 10, 2002

Wayne Ching, WSFM Chair, called the workshop to order at 0800 hours, April 10, 2002. This year's workshop was being held in Wyndham Garden Hotel, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The following State Fire Managers were in attendance:

Alaska	Joe Stam
Arizona	Dave Behrens
Colorado	Rich Homann
Hawaii	Wayne Ching
Idaho	Brian Shiplett
Montana	Tim Murphy
Nebraska	Don Westover
Nevada	Bob Ashworth
New Mexico	Frank Smith
North Dakota	Mike Santucci
Oregon	Bill Lafferty
South Dakota	Steve Hasenohrl
Utah	David Dalrymple
Washington	John Viada
Wyoming	Ray Weidenhaft

The following guests were in attendance:

Al Murphy, BLM Boise, representing Interior Agencies
Dennis Orbus, USDA Forest Service, Region 5
Jim Lawrence, Western Forestry Leadership Coalition
Barbara Kennedy, USDA Forest Service, Region 6
Arlene Weber-Sword, Alaska Division of Forestry, Facilitator
Fred Rossback, New Mexico Division of Forestry
Ginger Brudevold, USDA Forest Service, Region 3
Bill Teie, Recording Secretary

- **FEMA Funding** – Dennis Orbus briefed the group on the proposed out year budget impacts. There is a lot of money coming down the pipe. There is also a rumor that they want to develop their own ICS system.

- **IQS** – Some bugs were found; they have been corrected. Working on how to relate IQS to ROSS. The State Foresters have decided that IQS will not role up into IQCS.

- **New Mexico NFP Coordination** – Fred and Ginger briefed the group on their planning. The NFP intent is good, but making it work within theSW is difficult. Getting capacity to implement the plan is very difficult. NM has developed a “Twenty Community Strategy” to identify the highest priority areas in the state. They encourage the local committees to include environmental groups to participate.

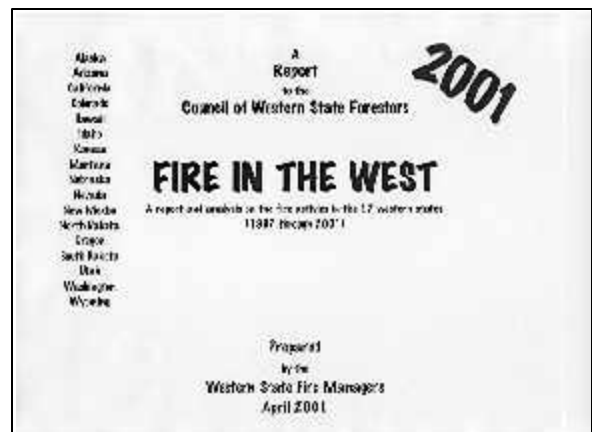
- **Issue Papers** – Work continued on the work on the various issue papers.

- **Fire in the West** -Group agreed to have a National Fire Plan version of Fire in the West to include grant numbers and accomplishments. Report will also contain Federal statistics and state authorities for 2001.

- **Complex Incident Management Course** – John briefed the group on this new course, which is sponsored by NASF and the Forest Service. They have taken S520 and taken a lot of the federal stuff out of it. This is a weeklong course and is quite well done. The emphasis is on getting the teams through successfully. Good investment of money. The question is if the states send their people to this course, can they be certified as Type 1 team qualified within their jurisdiction. As long as they are used in their home area, and not nationally, it appears they can be so identified and used. The intent of this new course was not to replace S520.

- **World Trade Center** – Joe Stam briefed the group on his team’s assignment in New York City following the attack of September 11.

- **Adjournment** – the meeting was adjourned at 1745 hours.



April 11, 2002

Wayne Ching, WSFM Chair, called the workshop to order at 0805 hours, April 11, 2002. This year's workshop was being held in Wyndham Garden Hotel, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The following State Fire Managers were in attendance:

Alaska	Joe Stam
Arizona	Dave Behrens
Colorado	Rich Homann
Hawaii	Wayne Ching
Idaho	Brian Shiplett
Montana	Tim Murphy
Nebraska	Don Westover
Nevada	Bob Ashworth
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Wyoming	Ray Weidenhaft

The following guests were in attendance:

Al Murphy, BLM Boise, representing Interior Agencies
Dennis Orbus, USDA Forest Service, Region 5
Jim Lawrence, Western Forestry Leadership Coalition
Barbara Kennedy, USDA Forest Service, Region 6
Arlene Weber-Sword, Alaska Division of Forestry, Facilitator
Fred Rossback, New Mexico Division of Forestry
Ginger Brudevold, USDA Forest Service, Region 3
Bill Teie, Recording Secretary

- **Business Meeting** – Wayne led the group during the business meeting. The issues discussed were as follows:
 - o **Budget** – The budget will be increased by \$1,000 to \$12,000. The recommendation is that the money stay with NASF and people desiring reimbursement should submit them to Joan.
 - o **Election of a Secretary** – Mike Santucci of North Dakota was elected Secretary. He replaces Frank Smith. It was a unanimous vote.
 - o **National Fire Manager's Meeting** – There is a need to meet with all of the National State Fire Managers. The south has proposed they host it in San Antonio, Texas in January 22-24, 2003.

o Committee to review NFP implementation –

- National Fire Plan Reporting Task Force - Mike Santucci, ND
(Action Item: Wayne will send letter to Janet identifying Mike to be WSFM member to the NFPInfo Task Force.)
- Northeast Fire Chiefs Liaison - Don Westover, NE
- Southern Fire Chiefs Liaison - Talk to Jim Wright, CA, see if he is interested. If not, talk to Casey McCoy, KS.
- Equipment Committee - Talk to Jim Wright to see if CA is still interested in being chair.
- Grant Selection Committee - Bob Ashworth; Dave Dalrymple; Ray Weidenhaft; Wayne Ching; Rich Homann; USFS Rep. Glenn Snyder from Denver; BLM Rep. Al Murphy ; and Wayne will contact Al to invite him. Committee will need to keep an eye on the progress of WSFM issue papers (NFP Allocation, NEP & ESA). If WSFM have ideas on how to improve process, let a committee member know. Committee may need to help federal partners (WO) understand process at local and regional level. Looking at June to open up application period. Guidelines still are geared toward WUI projects.

o Next Years Workshop – Next year's workshop will be held March 16-20, 2003 in Arizona.

o National Participation by federal agencies – We must request their participation now so they can calendar it. Vice-Chair will request.

o Grant Selection Committee – The same committee will handle, with a replacement from Section 2 to replace Frank. Utah was appointed.

o Spring vs. Fall Council Meeting – Jeff Jahnke and Steve Hasenohrl will do presentation.

- ***Adjournment*** – the meeting was adjourned until next year, at 1130 hours.